

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01718 130819Z

15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W

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R 130732Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1597

UNCLAS SOFIA 1718

USDOC FOR BEWT; STATE FOR EUR/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: BILLON VISIT

REF: (A) USDOC 13678; (B) SOFIA 1704

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES FURTHER DETAILS PROVIDED REF A, BUT IS FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT DATES SUGGESTED FOR DR. BILLON'S VISIT -- 23 AUGUST ONWARD -- WEIGH VERY HEAVILY AGAINST SUCCESSFUL MISSION. HOTEL SPACE IN PLOVDIV AREA IS NOW FULLY BOOKED THROUGH FAIR PERIOD AND THERE IS A LONG WAITING LIST OF THOSE HOPING FOR CANCELLATIONS. MUCH MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THE TIME OF ALMOST ALL THE OFFICIALS WHOM BILLON WISHES TO SEE IS ALREADY FULLY COMMITTED THROUGH THE FAIR PERIOD.

2. CONSIDERING THAT THEMES FOR PLOVDIV-76 WERE NOT FINALLY DECIDED BETWEEN EMBASSY AND USDOC UNTIL DECEMBER 1975, AND IN VIEW OF THE IMPEDIMENTS TO A SUCCESSFUL VISIT AT THE TIME PROPOSED, WE RECOMMEND THAT BILLON VISIT BE DEFERRED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE UNTIL EARLY OCTOBER.

HERZ

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NNN

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